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Supplement

Well-known South Viet Nam military commentator Cuu Long on "South Viet Nam politico-military situation in 1968"

One Year of General Offensives and Simultaneous Uprisings



PLAF fighters in Hue City

in South Viet Nam

FROM TET OFFENSIVES TO PARIS CONFERENCE

In November 1968, Johnson organized Westmoreland's triumphant visit to Washington and a joint session of Congress to hear the C-in-C of U.S. armed forces in Viet Nam testify that victory had already appeared on the horizon, that "there was a light at the end of the tunnel" and that it was even possible to bring home a first batch of GIs by the end of 1968.

Less than three months later, the powerful general offensives and simultaneous uprisings broke out in South Viet Nam, carrying the war even into cities said to be "impregnable" defended by the aggressors, and many Americans had a taste of having been somehow hoodwinked. (Newsweek, Feb. 20, 1968.)

The facts accomplished by the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces in the early days of last lunar year made a great stir in world opinion, especially American opinion. Wall Street Journal, an organ of U.S. big monopoly, in its Jan. 31, 1968 issue termed them as "the most aggressive, most far-flung and best co-ordinated communist assault of the entire war."

Everyone knows the catastrophic impact of this first wave of offensives and uprisings upon the U.S.-puppets:

Militarily, let us mention one-third of the Saigon army wiped out or disbanded, one-fifth of U.S. manpower decimated or put out of action, one-third of the enemy's aircraft and armored vehicles and an important part of

its war material destroyed. American propaganda did its best to conceal these considerable losses from the public but, as was revealed by many Western newspapers, U.S. officers in Saigon in private admitted them in all candor.

The blow was particularly devastating for the aggressors and their flunkies in the political plane: immense rural areas were overnight freed from their yoke, shattering their "WHAM" (win hearts and minds) program and paving the way for the ignominious departure of the ill-famed Mr. Komer, the "programmes" administrator. What little authority the Saigon administration had been enjoying with the people in cities

(Continued page 4)

★ **SAIGON FRONT**: 7 enemy companies destroyed or decimated, 17 planes and helicopters brought down, 68 military vehicles wrecked and 7 vessels sunk or damaged.

★ **NEAR CAN THO**: 2 attacks against an airfield within 10 days, 75 planes and helicopters destroyed and 200 U.S.-puppet troops killed or wounded.

★ **IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS**: nearly 800 adverse casualties in the first half of January.

★ **HEAVY ENEMY LOSSES IN 2 "ACCELERATED PACIFICATION" OPERATIONS**: 2,000 men put out of action and more than 30 vessels sunk or damaged.

NIXON's inaugural speech was essentially adorned with flourishes, demagogic promises of a beautiful future for the Americans and professions to the world of U.S. good-will for peace. Nixon dangled before the eyes of the American people a life built on equality and liberty in which Whites and Blacks join hands to advance towards progress. He even declared that he would cut arms spending from war expenditures for the improvement of living standards in the U.S.

Regarding foreign policy, the new U.S. President undertook to bend all his energies and wisdom on the service of peace between nations.

In short, Nixon's speech was a heap of theories and vague promises on future things and does not touch upon any of the big problems now confronting the U.S.: the failure and the stalemate of the war of aggression in Viet Nam, the ebullient struggle of the Black people, the serious and prolonged financial, economic and other social evils, high living cost, etc., etc. The enormous difficulties are like

Nixon's inaugural address, an avowal of an impasse

ominous clouds hanging over the U.S. and Nixon himself had to acknowledge that "We (the U.S.) are caught in war," "born by disaster" and "caught in its spirit". While the American people were expecting the new President to recommend remedies for all these ailments, Nixon gave none.

Nixon also chose to remain vague about the imperative demand of the American and other peoples in the world that an end be put to the war of aggression in Viet Nam. What is more, in proclaiming that the U.S. "will be as strong as we need to be," and that a "prolonged diplomacy" was ahead, Nixon betrayed to some extent his unwillingness to seek an early solution to the Viet Nam problem...

U.S. failure in Viet Nam and opposition of the world's people and of the Americans themselves to the U.S. policy of war marks aggression had forced Nixon, a well-known hawk, to soft pedal and talk of peace in his inaugural speech. But this was a kind of vague peace, a Pax Americana which his predecessors already had dealt with at length. The experience of the U.S. "peace campaigns" has taught the world's peoples to remain vigilant before Nixon's hazy professions of peace. What they demand is genuine peace, a peace of independence and freedom. So long as genuine peace and independence are not achieved, the progressive mankind is resolved to fight to a finish.

Nhan Dan (The People)
Jan. 23, 1969

PARIS PARLEY PROCEDURE APPROVED

THE Paris conference on the Viet Nam problem has its meeting on procedural matters in Paris on Jan. 18.

On their arrival, the delegation of the DRVN Government and that of the South Viet Nam NFL were enthusiastically greeted with cheers by hundreds of overseas Vietnamese and many Frenchmen and Frenchwomen who waved DRVN and NFL flags.

During the session, the representatives of the Saigon Administration repeated the "two-side" theme and the U.S. representative, naturally chimed in.

On behalf of the NFL delegation, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh recalled the Front's statement of November 3, 1968, which expressed its goodwill in accepting a quadripartite conference on Viet Nam. She also reaffirmed the 3 points of the NFL which showed the right path for a peaceful solution to the South Viet Nam issue.

Strongly condemning the "two-side" theme produced by the U.S. and the Saigon Administration to negate and belittle the role of the NFL, the Front's envoy said:

"The NFL is the authentic representative of the legitimate aspirations of the South Vietnamese people. The NFL delegation is attending this conference as a party independent from, and equal to, the other delegations, and is fully qualified to settle all questions related to South Viet Nam. The present Thieu-Ky-Huong administration in Saigon has

been installed by the U.S. It is frantically crossing the people's aspirations for peace and independence, and is massacring our fellow-countrymen. Because of this, it is strongly opposed by the South Vietnamese people of all strata who want it replaced. The presence of the Saigon administration at this conference does not imply its recognition by the NFL."

The NFL spokesman said that her delegation deemed it necessary to hold full-scale debates by the four delegations at an early date of essential questions to find a correct political solution to the Viet Nam issue.

Ambassador Ha Van Lau, on behalf of the delegation of the DRVN Government, made clear in his speech that the many weeks long delay of the quadripartite conference was due to the U.S. Government's failure to act up to the agreements concluded in the past. He said the latest works of U.S. technology: a sound detector with a very sophisticated nickname—"Tropic plant". The U.S. pirates use this new device to detect sounds produced by everything, from moving cars to steps of children going to school, for their air strikes. The piece of charred wood on that table is all that is left of the house of Mrs. Con of Tay hamlet after being hit by a napalm bomb. The fact that the aim of the conference was to find a political settlement on the basis of respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, namely independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements. He then put forward a draft project of the procedure of the conference.

"If the United States and the Saigon administration really want a political solution to the Viet Nam problem," Mr. Ha Van Lau pointed out, "the United States and the Saigon administration must renounce their aggressive design against South Viet Nam, and put an end to all infringements upon the sovereignty and threats to the security of the DRVN and the Saigon Administration must give up its bellicose policy that thwarts the South Viet Nam people's legitimate aspirations for independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, prosperity and the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country."

The session which was dragged out for five hours by the claimancy of the representatives of the Saigon Administration and the U.S. finally passed the procedural points and agreed to hold the first plenary session in the following week.

Nhan Dan (The People)
Jan. 17, 1969

THE NORTH GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

A village's museum

THE RIFLE AND THE PLANE DEBRIS

IT is safe to say that in N. village, Quang Binh province, the U.S. aggression has left the microcosm of the whole village.

The mass of steel lying in one corner is a U.S. 500-pound blockbuster. The militiamen have just unearthed it at the laboratory of the secondary school, unpicked it and put it on display in the museum to remind the younger generation of the enemy's crimes. For nearly 4 years, the U.S. aggressors have dropped 6,442 500-lb bombs on the hamlets of village N. It is impossible to list all steel-pellet bombs, rockets and shells released by U.S. planes and warships against the village. This cumbersome green propeller section is from a delayed action bomb which went smack into Mother Thanh's house. And here is one of the latest works of U.S. technology: a sound detector with a very sophisticated nickname—"Tropic plant". The U.S. pirates use this new device to detect sounds produced by everything, from moving cars to steps of children going to school, for their air strikes. The piece of charred wood on that table is all that is left of the house of Mrs. Con of Tay hamlet after being hit by a napalm bomb. The fact that the aim of the conference was to find a political settlement on the basis of respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, namely independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements. He then put forward a draft project of the procedure of the conference.

Platoon leader Pham Thi Thu who looks as frail and young as a girl, was killed in the battle which killed an F-4 and its pilot captured. She was a young girl under 18, fought more than 100 battles but, when asked questions, she still shyly answers. I also met Pham Thi Mai immediately after the first battle of her combatant's life was over. She first came to the village clinic attacked in early 1968. Assistant physician Pham Uu was killed in the raid. There is an exercise-book perforated by a steel-bullet. It belongs to Tran Thi Sang, a girl pupil of the old form. There is also a cut, half burned and full of holes, which was given to Mrs. Lei during land reform. The woman and her children were massacred to death. The broken bowl belonging to old Hoi is also on display. One of his grand-children, wounded during a U.S. bombing raid, was under treatment at the clinic. One morning he brought chicken rice-soup to the clinic, he was hit by an enemy bomb and his blood spurted into the bowl.

In the next room, a heap of scrap and twisted metal on an earthen platform represents the 4 U.S. warplanes brought down by the village militia—an AD-4, an F-4, an F-4H and a QH-50A which was the first unmanned helicopter downed over the North. There is also a pair of shoes from a U.S. pilot.

On a rack, by the heap of plane debris, shoes and a flying saucer, is a simple rifle, the 7 that killed the U.S. 50-A and joined in downing the 3 others. This

museum officials have so well arranged the exhibits that visitors can draw for themselves a big lesson of the present era, the landmark in our nation's long history—that of "pitting the weak against the strong" and "making humanism prevail over cruelty".

The plane hunters are as simple as their rifles. We have met them off and on at their combat positions, at river crossings or by Bridge T, where often enough they have to fill bomb craters for the building of their fortifications. Ngoc Phu, deputy leader of the village militia, frankly said that when the U.S. made its first air attacks on North Viet Nam, his only thought was to counter them. As to how to do it, he then had no clear ideas in his mind. He let off ploughing, lay flat on his back down on the tiny dyke of the ricefield, pressed this rifle against his shoulder and sighted the first enemy planes coming in for a bombing raid on Dong Hoi town. In this way, he and his comrades brought down the first air marauder, an F-105. The second of the enemy's planes, destroying the enemy's house, germinated and bore fruit on the fertile soil of the spirit to "determination to fight and to win."

Come and visit various families in N. village and you will see at any moment, a heap of stones, some logs of timber and several barrels of wood lying in this or that corner of the house. Generally the stones are contributed by old men and women, the timber and faggots by the youth and militia and station staves by school-pupils. These constitute the inexhaustible storage depots of the communications and transport service. A bomb hit a house and the roof was damaged, a signal will be given and within moments, these things will flow in.

PADDY RICE AND POTATO

LET'S continue our visit. The bunch of bamboo tapes and this old rifle belong to war martyr Le Manh Hung, former chairman of the local Production Team No. 2 of the co-op in Thien hamlet. Hung led a shock brigade to gather rice seedlings on the ricefields near Bridge T.

The work was in full swing when enemy planes came. He urged his fellows to take shelter, while he himself took a knoll as his command post to face the enemy. A bomb landed close to the knoll and took Hung's life. Hung was a young man, a student, they saw Hung still in a position ready to fire, looking up and a trigger was pulled. The bunch of bamboo tapes still hung on his back.

more than 60 years his eyes had got used to the green carpet of his tropical homeland and such a faked plant life was never seen there. Following his information, the engineering team of the hamlet arrived at the site. There was no need to have a sound knowledge of radio technology before the team succeeded in turning this dangerous device into a useless mass of metal.

A COIL OF OLD ROPE

DO you notice the coil of rope, rather worn-out, which is prominently displayed on that table covered with white parachute cloth? Village N. has worsted the U.S. aggressors with only this perfectly rudimentary weapon. It is the coil of rope which militiamen use at night to haul trucks and lorries across Bridge T, a section of the key communication line ranking 2nd or 3rd in the province of Quang Binh as a target most fiercely attacked by the enemy. On an average, nearly every metre on this section of road which stretches over 3 kilometers had received a bomb. At day-break, they brought the enemy's planes to the place up and aimed his attacks at another section.

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Potatoes and rice here are often obtained at the cost of blood like that. Sometimes bombs destroy 20 or 30 hectares of land on a ricefield. Deeply aware of the importance of rice for the real life of the people, the villagers have never left any land fallow nor left the banner of intensive cultivation down.

For a straight years no sea water has ever swept over Dyke H., thanks to good maintenance work. It has been a miracle indeed. The dyke lies next to a river crossing and rarely a day passed without an enemy bombing or shelling. The work teams took turns in keeping permanent watch in underground shelters. As soon as the roaring of enemy planes died out, their members immediately resumed work. Formerly, the ricefield at the foot of the dyke, covering nearly 10 hectares, often lay waste because of the damage caused by sea water. Now, in the midst of war, they have become a green ricefield. The co-op-4-ton tractor has been used to haul trucks and lorries across Bridge T, a section of the key communication line ranking 2nd or 3rd in the province of Quang Binh as a target most fiercely attacked by the enemy. On an average, nearly every metre on this section of road which stretches over 3 kilometers had received a bomb. At day-break, they brought the enemy's planes to the place up and aimed his attacks at another section.

The inhabitants of this bomb-ravaged village have transformed sand beds into fields. They have planted potatoes to make up for the acreage churned up by bombs and shells. The village has a garden of organic matters. Sand, only provides a bed for growing plants. The crops alive add help them grow, manure is badly needed. For every 100 m² of land, one must put in a tons of green manure, and for every manure, at least 5 kilos. Here, manure has become the first indispensable thing. Without it there would be no manure. The peasants shed their blood while they were preparing compost. The co-op forms a shock team to fertilization of the fields. Once Phuc, a party member, together with the trio Khao, Tien and Ngia, rowed a boat upstream to pick up the algae. On their way back, the four were intercepted by enemy planes. Everybody escaped scot-free but back home, when seaweeds were unloaded, two unexploded rockets were found among the cargo.

Could you imagine that under the enemy bombing, so intense as it was, people not only produced enough food to eat but also surpassed the quotas for delivery to the State? And this was not only the mothers and children receive the best care in the whole province? Yet all that is a fact in N.

YOU want to know the deep meaning of the dramatic change, don't you? The answer can be found right at the hamlet. In the central room, under the portrait of President Ho Chi Minh, there is a shabby flag, the forward-lickle flag which appeared in the area as far back as 1934-1944. It was a gold-star red flag which was

first seen fluttering over the roof of the communal house of village N. in the early days of 1945. Farther back, a pick with which the guerrilla fighter, Vo Dong, hit a French colonialist soldier of the enemy, in August 1950. On the first page of Tran Thi Sang's exercise-book, performed by Tran Thi Sang, is an essay on "Hoang Van Thu" facing the firing squad... (2).

This is the root of everything which means heroism in N. village.

NGUYEN SINH

- (1) one "san" equals 300 square meter.
- (2) An outstanding leader of the Vietnamese Communist forces, who was executed by the French colonialists.

NEWS IN BRIEF

● In 1968, the number of local industrial establishments built and put into operation almost equalled that of establishments built in 1966 and 1967. In Quang Binh, Ha Tinh and N. provinces, close to the 17th parallel where, in 1958, US air and naval attacks were much more intense than in other parts of the country. In 1968, 10 new regional workshops in Quang Binh province supplied local agricultural co-ops with 30,000 farm implements of different types. The gross output value of engineering in Nam Ha, Thai Binh, Hai Hung, Ha Tay and Ha Ha showed a rise of from 50 to 100 per cent over 1967.

● A conference of intellectuals was held in Hanoi recently under the slogan "Let's be determined to defeat the U.S. aggressors!" Nearly 500 delegates, mostly from the army, navy, many army and labour heroes and meritorious fighters of the patriotic emulation movement, represented brain workers of various branches and departments. Premier Pham Van Dong and Mr. Nguyen Phu Dung, acting head of the South Viet Nam NFL, Permanent Representation in North Viet Nam visited the Conference.

● In 1968, the gross output of local industrial enterprises surpassed the planned targets by 9 per cent compared with the preceding year. Output of cloth, household articles, metal products—the 3 key products of light industry—increased by from 10 to 20 per cent. The gross output value of local light industry increased by 10 per cent over 1967.

Hanoi Press Opinion

On Kissinger's article in "Foreign Affairs"

KISSINGER's article is characterized by patent obliquity; obliquity in covering up U.S. failure, obliquity in refusing to negotiate and settle the South Viet Nam problem, obliquity in clinging to the colonialist scheme to maintain South Viet Nam as a neo-type colony of the U.S.

Kissinger avoids dealing with U.S. basic failure, but the fact is that the U.S. has sustained a bloody and heavy failure in its war of aggression in Viet Nam. Contrary to Kissinger's truism that "the U.S. will win if he does not lose, the conventional army loses it if it does not win", the U.S. has met with total bankruptcy in its policy and plan to seize South Viet Nam by armed force. The U.S. has failed completely in its "special war" and, in a large measure, in its "limited war." Hundreds of thousands of GIs have been wiped out; the Saigon administration has weakened and is being plagued by deep splits; the puppet army with its sagging morale has been disintegrating by big chunks; the genuine officers and widespread uprisings of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people since early 1968 have dealt another crushing blow at the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, driving them into serious strategic passivity. Far from attaining the goal of its war of destruction against the DRVN, the U.S. has lost more than 3,000

troops ward off the stormy attacks by the PLAF. It is also being defeated.

Kissinger's military strategy is intended to prolong the war. But sure, it will do no good to the U.S. More than half a million American troops equipped with the best weapons were able neither to cope with the South Viet Nam armed forces and people nor to consolidate the puppet army and administration. Therefore, with a smaller army and a defensive strategy the U.S. will certainly take heavier losses, and the puppet administration will inevitably collapse. Since the "special war" and "limited war" have both come to a flop, the U.S. scheme to use the puppet army to prosecute its colonialist war can only meet with more bitter setbacks.

Kissinger himself must be aware of the contradiction and predicament of the United States when he talks of a negotiated settlement. But, his colonialist scheme being not given up, it is in effect the overall bankruptcy of the U.S. war policy and plan—the biggest setback in the history of U.S. imperialist aggression.

In such a situation, to hope to win victory by a change of strategy is sheer illusion. In fact, the defensive strategy suggested by Kissinger is being carried out by the U.S. following the discomfiture of Westmoreland's "search-and-destroy" strategy. His successor Abrams has tried to "clear-and-hold" in an attempt to reduce American troop casualties, regain the control of the population and defend the towns. But this new strategy has so far been unable to help the U.S. and puppet

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Exciting Hours, Somewhere Around Da Nang

A year ago, general offensives and simultaneous uprisings broke out all over South Vietnam. On the occasion of this anniversary, we publish some "snapshots" of events that were going on in the countryside around Da Nang on the night of January 30, 1968 and the following morning. They were taken from a literary review published in the liberated area of Central Trung Bo. Ed.

It was late afternoon. An unusual taste was stirring the whole village. Not because it was the eve of Tet, the traditional Lunar New Year's Day. Preparations had been going on for weeks for the festival, but this afternoon nobody had a thought for it.

Something much more important had been announced for the night: the opportunity had occurred for the people to avenge their dead and give vent to their hatred of the enemy for so long past. Everywhere, people got ready for the forthcoming battle. First of all, they feverishly armed themselves with all kinds of weapons, even the most rudimentary ones, mostly ropes and sticks. All kinds of ropes: coil ropes, parachute cords, nylon strings, discarded electrical flex. All kinds of sticks: bamboo spears, wooden staves, rattlers retrieved from burned-down houses, iron railings... And of course cold steel: machetes, sabres, taken out of caches and refurbished, and kitchen knives of all sizes.

In an out-of-the-way place, the local committee of the NLF was taking their oath. Not an oath of office, but one for the leadership of the oncoming battle. The place was a house empty of all furniture, whose roof had been blown away by American bombs. A NLF flag, golden-star on a red-and-blue field, was hung on a dilapidated wall. The people present were various ages, but all looked time-tested and trial-tempered and united by tight spiritual bonds. The last beams of the setting sun brightened the red of the flag and lit up their serious imperturbable features.

Finally the march-off signal was given. "Forward! Victory shall be ours!" In good order and perfect silence, the column moved forward... time-tested and trial-tempered and united by tight spiritual bonds. The last beams of the setting sun brightened the red of the flag and lit up their serious imperturbable features.

Amid deep silence, a young woman took the floor. Her voice, usually gentle and calm, took on a fiery tone. "Comrades," she said, speaking out each word, "tonight we shall meet us due punishment to the aggressors and the traitors. In a few hours' time, a great offensive by our forces will sweep the entire land."

In those solemn moments, each felt a lump in his throat. All thought of those who had fallen on the field of honor, and of those still languishing in enemy jails. They wished they could have wings to fly to battle!

gaping mouths and would let the people resume their march without interfering.

It was a glorious morning. Not a plane in the sky. Not a jet or truck on the road. For the first time in many years, land and sky were ours. It was reported that large numbers of planes had been destroyed at the Da Nang and Nuoc Nam airfields, that the Hoi An provincial town and Vinh Dien district center had been stormed and the administrative HQ of Duy Xuyen district razed to the ground. Besieged and assaulted in their various lairs, the aggressors and puppets were signalling for help and calling each other names over their radios...

This is the Voice of Viet Nam... This is Radio Liberation...

In every village and hamlet, transistor sets received the news, which spread like wildfire. Everyone jumped for joy. Those who had been to Hue or Saigon drew hasty sketch-maps of those cities and proudly pointed to their fellow-villagers the various points under the Liberation troops' fire.

In an underground shelter, a microphone machine was operating at full speed, turning out news bulletins of the Information Department under the NLF provincial committee. Sent out even before the ink had dried on the sheets, they reached the guerrillas in their combat trenches, the machinegunners of the regional forces in their gun nests, the inhabitants of the remotest corners, even some of the Liberation troops hardly back from their onslaughts on Da Nang!

Like a cornered beast, the enemy struggled desperately. But the sword of the people's war was so thick and deadly that they hastily turned tail after dropping their bombs at random.

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Editor's Note: We reprint below a report by Carl Stock, who spent a year and a half with the "American Friends Service Committee" in South Vietnam, and who witnessed there the Tet general offensive and simultaneous uprisings. The report first appeared in the "Liberation" American paper, in its September 1968 issue.

BEFORE I went to Viet Nam I was persuaded of the destructive omnipotence of the U.S. military. I was opposed to American intervention in Viet Nam because its purpose was to suppress a popular revolution, but there was no doubt in my mind that such suppression was possible... After spending the last year and a half in Viet Nam I feel differently. First, it became apparent that the American military was not really winning; then it seemed that a stalemate prevailed, as sections of the press would still have us believe. Then the Tet offensive, the situation has been thrown into sharper focus. Now many believe that from the standpoint of the United States, may be in the process of being lost. I would like to argue a case just one step more advanced: The war is already lost; Viet Nam has won.

How is it possible to say, as we well know, that 'allied' troops still in the country and with jet bombers still devastating the land and the people, that Viet Nam has won? As in any war, the definition of victory or defeat depends on the objectives of each side. In the case of Viet Nam, in simplest terms, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the National Liberation Front are striving for the expulsion of foreign invaders and for the transformation of their own society, whereas Washington hopes to

achieve, apparently, a permanently separate South Vietnam — a neutral military and economic base, politically invulnerable to the temptations of revolution. The Vietnamese, excluding the Saigon-based henchmen, require 1) the absence of U.S. troops, 2) the absence of U.S. troops and administrators and 3) local organization to meet the people's needs. The fact that troops are invulnerable to them, they withdraw and then return when the

launching of 'search-and-destroy' operations from them... It has failed, however, in several ways. First, as regards combatants, the rapid withdrawal of U.S. troops has often been compared to the effect of pulling one's fist from the overcast and thus water simply poured down into place; so it is with the NLF troops. If the circumstances are unfavorable to them, they withdraw and then return when the

defenses are crumbling and the mining of bridges. Another development of even greater consequence to American military fortunes, is the tremendous loss of material suffered since Tet. American officials in Saigon privately estimate that at least a thousand aircraft were lost during the Tet offensive, and many more have been destroyed since then.

Regardless of official attitudes toward General Gavin's 'enclose theory', that normalizing the forces of U.S. and Saigon troops have been largely pulled back to the big bases and cities, where they are under continuous attack by the People's Liberation Armed Forces (PLAF). Many do not understand why the NLF is fighting in the cities, especially in the areas which are quite simple. That is all that is left to fight for. The war is already lost; Viet Nam has won.

Since the Tet offensive (Continued page 7)

VIET NAM HAS WON THE WAR

invaders have left... The effect of the operations, then, is to ravage the combatant support troops. Second, many of the combat troops are necessary for the defense of the bases. The National Liberation Front, on the other hand, is not tied down to bases. Local guerrillas have reached large proportions and permit the regular army to be a permanently mobile force. Although outnumbered, the Liberation troops are one hundred percent effective; they both control territory and control the strategic major battles. All the above has been true ever since the Liberation Front was created in 1965. That is to say, the NLF has always had the upper hand, enjoying the support of the people and exercising effective administration over most of the country.

First, over the past years people have fled from the camps in increasing numbers, two other difficult circumstances: about eighty percent of the U.S. forces are non-combatant support troops. Second, many of the combat troops are necessary for the defense of the bases. The National Liberation Front, on the other hand, is not tied down to bases. Local guerrillas have reached large proportions and permit the regular army to be a permanently mobile force. Although outnumbered, the Liberation troops are one hundred percent effective; they both control territory and control the strategic major battles. All the above has been true ever since the Liberation Front was created in 1965. That is to say, the NLF has always had the upper hand, enjoying the support of the people and exercising effective administration over most of the country.

From Tet Offensive to Paris Conference

(Continued from page 1)

tightly controlled by them, went up in smoke taking with it the aggressor's hopes for the consolidation of an indigenous government that could serve as a screen for their neo-colonialist designs. Admittedly Henry Kissinger, the new U.S. President's adviser on national security matters, had to take a bold step: the measure was to delay — perhaps indefinitely — the consolidation of governmental authority" (Vietnam Affairs, January 1968).

Everywhere, the people rose up, organized themselves and built up revolutionary power. It was in this stirring atmosphere that the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces emerged as the symbol of the widening of the national front of struggle against U.S. aggression.

A new page was turned in South Viet Nam's history: the "limited war" unleashed by the Yankees was defeated at the very moment when their war effort had practically reached a peak and the total number of troops in the American Expeditionary Corps was about to hit a ceiling politically acceptable to the American people. The aggressors

were thus compelled to scrap their "peripheral" strategy which also consisted of big-scale counter-offensives, and to shift over to a defensive strategy concentrating on the protection of important bases and densely populated areas. Their aggressive will having been blunted — the more so as their air war against the Viet Nam had also ended up in painful failures — they had to take a bold step: the measure was to delay — perhaps indefinitely — the consolidation of governmental authority" (Vietnam Affairs, January 1968).

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the major battle was fought in South Viet Nam. The offensives and uprisings in May, then in August-September 1968, cost the aggressors nearly 200,000 casualties and the destruction of thousands of aircraft, armored vehicles and a considerable quantity of war materials. Nguyen's new strategy of "clear-and-hold" severely put to trial, proved to be powerless in face of the stormy assaults launched by the NLF against the big cities and important U.S. bases where a plan for "defence in depth" had been minutely elaborated. Entire enemy bat-

tlements were wiped out in the heart of Saigon, the belt of fortifications around the Nam burst open, and many enemy lairs were pounded by people's artillery by day and by night. Politically, each wave of offensives took away — as a Western journalist put it — a bit of the puppet's power. The revolutionary offensives now prevailing in Saigon and other South Vietnamese cities under such slogans as "End U.S. aggression by the Tet offensive!" "Down with the five-agents! Form a resistance clique!" "Form a resistance committee!" is a clear indication of the complete isolation of the aggressors and their henchmen.

And most recently, the first half of January 1969, which witnessed a continuation of the offensives started a year ago, was characterized by a new and widespread PLAF attacks on all battlefields and on enemy key positions. As well as the numerous guerrilla activities which forced the U.S. puppet "accelerated pacification" programme.

They only learn from their setbacks. The ones sustained in 1968 already brought the puppet administration to its senses and to a series of back-down moves.

May the coming events of 1969 — which will certainly be marked by a further process of offensives and uprisings staged by South Viet Nam's forces against the Nixon administration — the absurdity of the only reasonable course of action: to end its role in U.S. aggression against Viet Nam.



PLAF scouts in Da Nang mountain region (Tay Ninh province)

VIET NAM AND THE WORLD

VIET NAM HAS WON THE WAR

(Continued from page 5)

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S MESSAGES

To Comrades:
T. I. Huzhnev, Secretary General of the CC of the CPSU,
N. V. Podgorny, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet,
A. N. Kossygin, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers,
Moscow.

On the occasion of the new marvellous feat the Soviet Union has achieved in the successful launching of the two spaceflights "Soyuz-3" and "Soyuz-4", I am very happy to convey, on behalf of the Vietnamese people, the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Government of the Democratic

Republic of Viet Nam, our warmest congratulations to you and, through you, to the people, Communist Party and Government of the Soviet Union, and all the Soviet scientists, engineers and workers who have contributed to this great achievement.
The skilful link up of the two manned spacecraft and the transfer of one cosmonaut from one craft to the other is marked, a new step forward and opened bright and great prospects in the conquest of outer space by the Soviet Union.
Please accept my Communist greetings.

Hanoi, January 10, 1969.
HO CHI MINH

To the International Conference In Support of the Peoples of Portuguese Colonies and Australasia,
Khartoum.

On behalf of the Vietnamese people I wish to convey to you our warm greetings. Your Conference is a token of militant solidarity between the peoples of the Asian and African countries for national independence, democracy, peace and social progress and against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism headed by U.S. imperialism. The struggle of the peoples of Australasia countries as well as that of the Asian and Latin American peoples in general is continuously attacking imperialism and colonialism and are moving ever greater victories. The Vietnamese people consider that the Asian and African peoples, closely united in their unflinching struggle, will bring their national liberation to fruition.

The Vietnamese people fully support the struggle for national liberation of the peoples of Angola, the Congo (Kinshasa), Guinea, Cape Verde, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa, Southwest Africa and other Asian and African countries. As an expression of their solidarity, the Vietnamese people, in the impulse of their successes, are resolved to win total victory over the U.S. aggressors and to fulfil their glorious historic task towards their own nation and their internationalist obligation toward the friendly people who are fighting imperialism.
I sincerely thank you for your sympathy and active support to our people's resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.
Good success to your Conference.

Hanoi, January 17, 1969
HO CHI MINH
President of the DRVN

20th Founding Anniversary of Lao People's Liberation Army (January 20, 1969)

Lao PLA: Heroic Army of a Heroic People

STRENGTH by twenty years of trial, the Lao PLA has now become a well-seasoned army resolved to fight and to win, the voucher for total victory of the Lao people in their struggle against the American aggressors for national salvation. It has given proof of a lofty spirit of revolutionary heroism, offensive and combative, and has achieved gallant exploits.

In the nine years of the resistance to the French colonialists it fought 3,000 battles, put out of action 17,000 enemy troops, including nearly 1,000 officers, seized 20,000 weapons and more than 300 tons of military equipment. Then, it embarked on a fight against U.S. aggressions which marks a very glorious stage in the history of the Lao people.

So far, more than 100,000 troops of the U.S. benchmarks have been wiped out and more than 600 U.S. aircraft shot down or destroyed. The military successes in 1968 stood out as a brilliant feat with the wiping out of more than 100,000 enemy troops and the destruction of more than 700 aircraft, which represent an important amount of the

enemy's manpower and materials, bringing about a major change in the balance of forces in favour of the patriotic forces and driving the U.S. and its lackies into passive defence. Early 1969, the patriotic army mounted a surprise attack on the biggest ammunition depot of the U.S. benchmarks in the area of the U.S. benchmarks, and caused confusion and fear among the enemy.

The Lao PLA which is composed of three categories of forces (regular army, regional troops and militia guerrillas) is excellent in combat either against the puppet troops which seek to encroach upon the liberated area or against the U.S. air pirates who bomb that area. It has been fulfilling satisfactorily the noble historic mission which is to thwart the U.S. "special war", and defend the armed forces and people to build up a peaceful, independent, peaceful, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos.

It epitomizes the spirit of unity and great determination to the struggle of the Lao people for national liberation, from north to South of the country, under the banner of the Lao Patriotic Front, headed by Prince Souphanna

oung. It is the heroic army of a heroic people.

The rapid growth of the Lao PLA and the big victories of the revolutionary war in Laos can be ascribed to the sound line of the Lao Patriotic Front, the entire people, build a firm revolutionary army, develop the people's war, fight and build its forces at the same time, defeat step by step the U.S. imperialists' scheme of aggression and advance towards complete victory.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Lao People's Liberation Army, the armed forces and people of Viet Nam send their warmest congratulations to the noble historic and people of Laos, their comrades-in-arms, who have been fighting perseveringly, valiantly and skilfully against the enemy. The splendid victories of the Lao armed forces and people are a great encouragement, a staunch support to the struggle of the Lao people for national liberation, from north to South of the country, under the banner of the Lao Patriotic Front, headed by Prince Souphanna

In Support of Viet Nam's Struggle

Big Meeting in Paris

In response to the appeal of the French Peace Movement, some 4,000 representatives of the French people of all strata gathered on January 10 at the "Palais de la Mutualite" in Paris to express their support for the Vietnamese people's legitimate struggle against U.S. aggression. The speakers at the meeting warned Nixon that there was only one honorable way out for the U.S.: to withdraw its troops from South Viet Nam.

Present at the meeting were many leaders of the French Peace Movement and prominent peace fighters like Prof. René Noehren, Pastor René Rognon, Pastor Francis Boes, Lawyer Leo Malraux, etc.

Also attending were Georges Macchia, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party, and many leaders of the French mass organizations.

Taking the floor at the rally, Jean Schaefer, member of the National Council of the

French Peace Movement, Secretary of the French General Confederation of Labour, who was in the chair highlighted the strong support given Viet Nam by the French people and other peoples in the world. He also reaffirmed the insistent demand of those present that Nixon "stop at once U.S. aggression in Viet Nam".

The delegation of the French Peace Movement, back from a recent visit to Viet Nam, strongly denounced the U.S. imperialists' crimes in Viet Nam and warmly praised the Vietnamese people's determination to fight and to defeat the U.S. aggressors.

The participants unanimously passed a resolution addressed to U.S. President Nixon and urging an immediate and complete end to the U.S. aggression in Viet Nam, total withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and respect for the Vietnamese people's right to decide themselves their destiny.

Washington Stages Anti-War Protests on Nixon's Inauguration

On the occasion of Nixon's inauguration as President of the United States, large crowds of Americans marched on Washington on January 10 and to demand an end to the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam and protest against the bellicose policy of the U.S. ruling circles, in response to a call of the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Viet Nam (USA), foreign reports said.

On the eve of the inaugural day, some 10,000 American youths and other people held a mass rally in front of the Washington Monument near the White House and then paraded along the Pennsylvania Avenue.

They carried placards reading: "Nixon's number one war criminal", "Billionaires rule - U.S. aggression in South East Asia, Shame to USA!", and "The NFL Will Win".

It was the first time a demonstration of this size had been staged in connection with a presidential inauguration, *Reuter* remarked.

At the forefront of the marching column stretching over half a mile were a group of active duty servicemen opposed to the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam.

Using rocks, mud and sticks as weapons, the demonstrators valiantly fought

against a large police force.

On the night of January 10, as Nixon attended an inaugural concert, thousands of protesters held their own "counter-inaugural" ball, after marching through Washington streets and chanting, "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh" and other slogans against the Viet Nam war.

On the same day, 5,000 demonstrators blighted a reception for incoming Vice-President Spiro Agnew held at Smithsonian Institute.

On Jan. 20, as Nixon's inauguration ceremony took place at the White House, a 10,000-strong demonstration was held just in front of the building, one hour before the inauguration march.

Many demonstrators deliberately hurled stones on Nixon's car which had to career at full speed, without stopping, being hit, *AP* reported.

The authorities in Washington had called in 20,000 troops and police to form a security belt around Nixon during his inaugural day.

Three helicopters loaded with secret agents performed a lowflying over the new President's bullet-proof car from the Capitol to the White House. Nobody was allowed to stand at the edge of the White House street followed by the inauguration march and only those with passes were permitted to enter the dwelling houses in those streets.

President of the meeting in support of Viet Nam held on Nov. 23, 1968 by 6,000 Parisians

ON THE EDUCATION FRONT IN BINH SON

While the enemy raided a neighbouring one, the children in Binh Son district, adjacent to the Chu Lai base of the U.S. aggressors, have never been allowed to go to school. The U.S. aggression in Viet Nam, total withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and respect for the Vietnamese people's right to decide themselves their destiny.

In the first days of enemy occupation, not a few in Binh Son asked themselves how to continue sending their children to school and how to free themselves from illiteracy. But, with their long tradition of dauntless struggle, the Binh Son people took the decision to "continue education as a means of fighting the Yankee aggressors".

Then, from the middle of 1966, the mass education movement was quickly resumed and steadily headway throughout the district.

Alphabet classes for adults, pre-school classes for children and primary and elementary classes of general education for pupils were opened throughout the liberated area, in the cordons around enemy bases, and even behind the enemy line.

Here, teaching and learning is a bitter daily and hourly struggle against the enemy. Teachers and pupils put into effect the slogans "We learn, we live, we fight" and "We'll learn, even with one teacher and one pupil". In many cases, the adults attended

population have been using every available moment to learn, at noon time, in the evening, and they learn right in air-raid shelters. Often they attend classes in the evening after a whole day fighting against enemy raiders. The guerrillas do not leave their books even during a counter-raid. Some women carry on their study right in an underground shelter. In many villages holding education to the "whole population as a duty", the children are taught. On their way to school, the children were often threatened by their parents to go to school. But with their calm and courage, they always outwitted the enemy and came to their classes in full. Once the enemy threatened: "Anyone who goes to the revolutionary schools will have their families killed to the last man and their homes razed to the ground". Nonetheless, not a day did the children in villages D, H, G, and elsewhere stop attending school.

Many children did not give up schooling even after their parents were killed and their homes burnt down by the enemy. A good many others managed to return to school after being herded into concentration camps. The population has provided the teachers with the most effective protection and the best care in their endeavours to carry on education in all circumstances. In village C, a dozen families have adopted orphans and continued their education to school.

Little V was left without support after her mother was arrested and her home destroyed by the enemy. The villagers, however, saw to it that she continued her education until she completed a grade.

Still bigger difficulties have been encountered by the adults attending ABC classes. In spite of the strain of the maintenance, production and many other resistance jobs, the adult

particular, three villages and three hamlets have done away with illiteracy and possess now many complementary classes.

Particular attention has been given to the protection of the classes, teachers and students. Many villagers have readily offered their homes to be used as classrooms or allowed classrooms to be built in their gardens. Every time enemy troops come they are the first to come out and dissuade them from burning the schools.

For three consecutive years, the literacy classes for adults, the infant classes as well as the primary and elementary schools in Binh Son have been running smoothly and more than 200 others, mostly cadres and guerrillas, attended complementary courses. In

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(1) Name of a locality made famous by an uprising against French colonialism.

one end of the country to the other and finally bottled up in tiny enclaves, where now their last hope, bourgeois support, has at last been pulled out from under them.

Admitted, then, that Viet Nam has won, the questions now are: 1) How has the U.S. defeat been possible? 2) In there any prospect for changing the situation? The first question has already been answered except for its theoretical underpinning — the "concentration-dispersal" contradiction. In the war of resistance against the French, the Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces emerged. Composed of respected bourgeois intellectuals willing to cooperate with the National Liberation Front to drive out the American invaders, the Alliance represented the radicalizing of the city people and the opening of the last stage of the American occupation. Politically discredited to begin with, the United States was then defeated militarily from

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ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

MILITARY OPERATIONS

Enemy Under Attack from All Sides Across South Viet Nam

THE PLAF continued attacking the enemy without let-up in the whole territory and in multiple forms: stormy assaults against enemy positions and base camps, intensive shelling of carefully selected targets, ambushes on road and river convoys, bold and effective surprise attacks by groups of guerrillas in the rural areas or self-defence groups in the cities even in Saigon.

The patriots' actions were particularly intense on the Saigon front and in the Mekong Delta. Following are the main ones:

In the province of Tay Ninh, on the night of Jan. 10, in the provincial capital Tykin Northwest of Saigon and in several other urban centres, attacks followed by popular uprisings cost the enemy 150 men killed or wounded. Next day, in sinking a patrol boat and damaging another on the Oriental Nam Co river, the regional forces of the province wiped out about one hundred adverse troops. On Jan. 13, 4 other vessels were sunk on the same river at Ben Dinh, 70 km Northwest of Saigon.

On the following day, 31 ambushes were laid by the PLAF in the vicinity of Dai Sai (10 km East-South-east of Tay Ninh) against 3 enemy road convoys: 30 military vehicles were destroyed and more than a GI's hundred knocked out.

On Jan. 15, 11 other vehicles were destroyed during an attack on the campment of a mechanized infantry unit at Bau Co, 18 km Northeast of Tay Ninh.

On the same day, near Ben Sol, about 15 km West-Southwest of Tay Ninh, 2 puppet companies were wiped out, suffering 100 casualties and the loss of a large quantity of arms and materials. 5 aircraft including one jet shot down and 3 trucks destroyed. Next morning, the relief forces were intercepted and a 3rd company was put out of action.

In the province of Binh Long, about 100 km North of Saigon, in an ambush on Route No. 12 on Jan. 12, the PLAF wrecked 17 tanks and armoured cars, shot down 3 helicopters and killed or wounded 120 GI's.

Further Northwest, in the province of Phuoc Long, an attack was reported by Gai Phong Press Agency against a position of the enemy Air cavalry at Bu Nho (8 km South of Phuoc Long provincial capital) on Jan. 10; 2 U.S. companies were wiped

out, 4 helicopters shot down and 2 heavy mortars destroyed. This was the 2nd disaster of the "Flying Horsemen" in this area where on Jan. 1, 2 other companies (not one as reported earlier) were put out of action.

Western news agencies further reported the attacks launched between Jan. 17 and Jan. 21 in the sector of the Saigon front, especially in Phuoc Long, Tay Ninh, Quang Tau and Saigon. In broad daylight, the airfield and the military port of Quang Tau, a big U.S. aero-naval base 62 km Southeast of Saigon, were subjected to 2 poundings on Jan. 21 causing serious enemy losses in men and material (including a major landing craft sunk). Bases of the U.S. 25th Infantry division, 19th Light Infantry brigade and 1st Infantry division, also came under heavy shelling while enemy installations in the district of Binh Long were blasted.

In the Mekong Delta, a dashling coup was used by the PLAF against the Lo To airfield, some kilometres West of Can Tho city where the puppet 4th corps HQ is located (130 km Southwest of Saigon). After 35 minutes of fighting, the PLAF gained control of the terrain on Jan. 13 and proceeded with the systematic destruction of enemy aircraft with satchel charges and grenades. A combatant was credited with destroying 12 and another, 8. Ten days earlier, this same airfield had already received about 100 rounds of big gun fire pumped by the guns which inflicted great damage on it. All told, during these 2 raids, the enemy lost 75 aircraft destroyed, mostly helicopters, or three-quarters of the total number of aircraft stationed at the airfield, 11 armoured cars and an arm depot capable of equipping 3 enemy battalions completely burnt and 200 men, mostly GI's.

Closer to Saigon, in the province of My Tho, the enemy was hard hit in the provincial capital and in almost all important urban centres and military bases between the 1st and Jan. 15, and took 200 casualties, including 130 GI's, killed or wounded.

On the night of Jan. 18 an other wave of attacks flared up again in this province only some 40 km from Saigon.

In the Southernmost peninsula, the large-scale pacification operation conducted by

6,000 U.S.-puppet troops (13 battalions) from Dec. 22, 1968 to Jan. 6, 1969 in 20 villages in the U Minh area ended with heavy losses: 1,000 of the raiders were put out of action (including 200 GI's), 32 vessels sunk or burnt and 7 helicopters downed.

In the province of Ben Tre, village guerrillas of Gieng Trong district inflicted 300 casualties on the adversary including 200 GI's and brought down 4 helicopters in the first 10 days of January.

Heavy mortaring was reported by Western news agencies against many enemy positions between Jan. 17 and Jan. 23, particularly against the U.S. Binh Duc base, near My Tho, and the military sector HQ's installed in the provincial capitals of Ca Mau, My Tho, Vi Thanh, Hoc Mon, Chau Doc and Co Cong.

In the Western Highlands* in the first half of January, the patriots fought at least 45 combats, put 700 enemy troops (270 GI's) out of action, destroyed 36 vehicles including 14 armoured cars, 6 cannons and heavy mortars, grounded 10 choppers and planes and burnt nearly a million litres of fuel.

West of Pleiku, Highway No. 19 was cut at several points on Jan. 14 and 350 sections of pipelines destroyed. Next day, intercepting the enemy moving in on a repair mission, the patriots destroyed 5 tanks.

Western news agencies reported other actions in this area in the 3 day ending Jan. 21: bombardment of the U.S. Khe base (235 km South-Southeast of Da Nang) and a position of the U.S. 173 Airborne Brigade about 150 km Northeast of Saigon, infantry attacks against the camp of U.S. officers in Da Lat (227 km Northeast of Saigon) and the Buon Me Thuot radio station (250 km Northeast of Saigon), etc...

In the Da Nang sector, in the district of Dai Loc, 28 km Southwest of the city, a U.S.-puppet large scale "accelerated pacification" operation launched on Dec. 11, last ended on Jan. 7 in bitter failure: 1,000 men put out of action (including 400 GI's and 500 Korean mercenaries), one jet and 2 helicopters brought down and a piece of artillery destroyed. In another district about 30 km South-Southeast of Da Nang, in the first 11 days of this year, the PLAF destroyed 200 adverse soldiers.

On the other hand, Western news agencies reported 2 poundings on Jan. 22 of the air base and military port of Da Nang which sustained heavy damage, and a PLAF heavy engagement with marines in the Dai Loc area and the shelling on Jan. 17 of enemy positions in the province of Binh Dinh at the 14th parallel.

A remarkable exploit of the guerrillas of Quang Ngai province (some 100 km Southeast of Da Nang) was recently reported by Gai Phong Press Agency: between early Nov. 1968 and Jan. 6, 1969 they downed 20 and damaged 3 enemy helicopters and planes. Those of village M-3 in 2 days grounded 3 aircraft and a village militia leader

was credited with the downing of 2 helicopters and 1 jet and damaging 2 other helicopters.

In South Viet Nam's northernmost sector, in the Cao Hien and Tan Lam (Rockpile) areas, 150 enemy casualties among them 115 GI's were listed between Jan. 1 and Jan. 14.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saigon Intellectuals Publish Manifesto

MANY Saigon intellectuals have recently made public a manifesto urging "an immediate political solution for peace" in South Viet Nam, Gai Phong Press Agency reported. Its signatories were Tran Ngoc Lieng, a barrister, Ly Chanh Trung, Chanh Tam Loan and Tran Kim Thach, professors; Nguyen Hu Thien, architect; and Phan Van My, a businessman.

The manifesto, issued at a time when the mass movement for peace was sweeping South Vietnamese towns, underscored that South Viet Nam must adopt a political line "based on independence, democracy and freedom".

Buddhists Stage Peace Prayers

ON January 6, numbers of Buddhist female believers held at An Quang pagoda (Saigon) a religious service, in the memory of a son who had burnt himself to death in protest to U.S.-puppet dictatorial regime.

The participants in the ceremony passed a petition urging that the Paris peace talks should be held in good faith in order to put an end to the war and restore peace.

GIs Protest en masse U.S. war in South Viet Nam

— 3,000 GI's supported by 1,000 Vietnamese workers and hands at Dong Du demand repatriation.

— 2 American divisions at Binh Duc refuse an "accelerated pacification" operation.

ON December 27, 1968, at 1 p.m., 3,000 American soldiers and officers at Dong Du base near Cu Chi (100 km Northwest of Saigon) displayed streamers and posters demanding an end to the U.S. Viet Nam war and repatriation, Gai Phong Press Agency reported. The demonstration lasted the whole afternoon despite counteraction by "security" officers and spread to all sectors in the base.

As a token of solidarity 1,000 Vietnamese workers and hands working at the base downed tools to back the GI's claims.

On December 28, the demonstrators continued to hold meetings all day long. NFL leaders were freed from hand to hand and even read aloud. The workers' strike went on until December 30.

Another report of the same agency said that on December 20, American servicemen of Battalion 1 and 2, U.S. Infantry Division 9 at Binh Duc, near My Tho, left bank of the Mekong river, raised an "accelerated pacification" operation. The enemy Military police hurled tear gas grenades at the mutineers, which incited 150 GI's to throw down their weapons and uniforms and break their ranks. The following day, the U.S. command had to move off immediately one of the battalions.